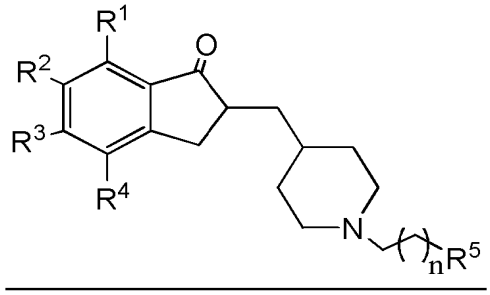
Amendments to the Claims:

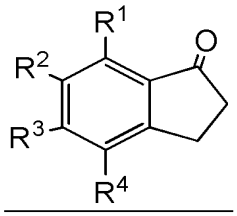
1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a Donepezil derivative of formula (I),



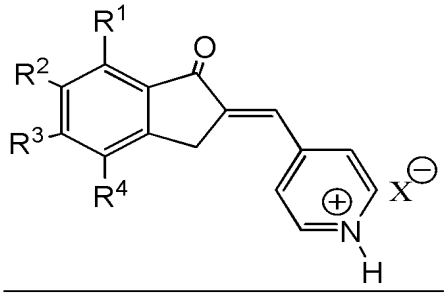
(I)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^5 represents a phenyl or a substituted phenyl; and n is an integer from 0 to 2, characterized in that the process comprises:

a) a reaction of 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde with a compound of formula (II) in toluene or benzene to form, in the presence of a strong acid HX, a compound of the formula (III);

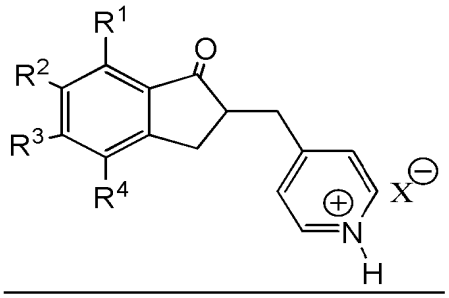


(II)

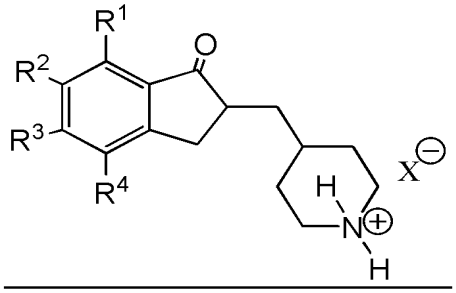


(III)

b) a catalytic hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) or the compound of formula (V) in a solvent selected from water, an alcohol, an ether, an ester, or an organic acid to yield a compound of formula (IV); and

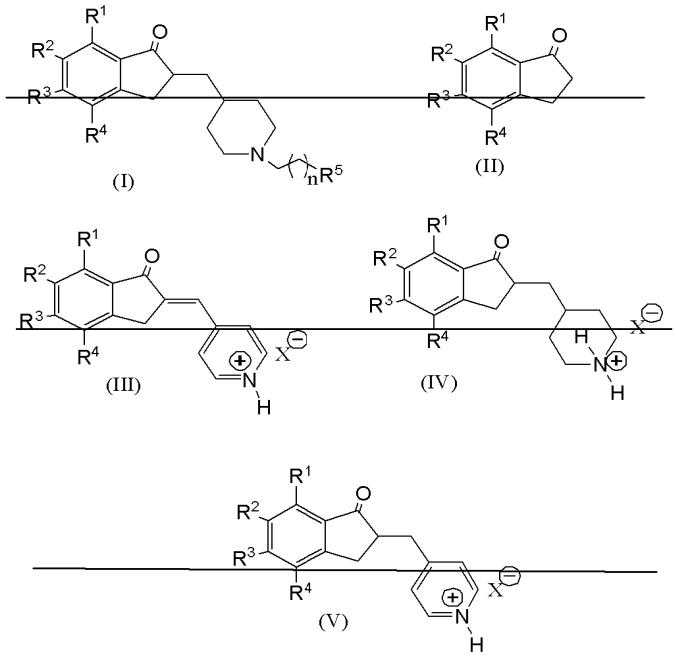


(V)



(IV)

c) an N-alkylation ~~alkylation~~ reaction of a compound of formula (IV) in the presence of base at a temperature of from about 0°C to about 150°C to yield a compound of formula (I).



2. (Original) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^5 represents a phenyl or substituted phenyl; and n is an integer from 0 to 2,

characterized in that a compound of formula (I) is produced by reacting a compound of formula Y-$(CH_2)_{n+1}R^5$ with a compound of formula (IV) in the presence of a base, wherein Y represents a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, or an iodine atom.

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^5 represents a phenyl or a substituted phenyl; and n is an integer from 0 to 2, characterized in that a compound of formula (I) is produced by reacting a compound of formula OHC-$(CH_2)_nR^5$ with a compound of formula (IV), in the presence of a reducing agent.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; HX represents an alkyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, a substituted benzene sulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, or phosphoric acid, characterized in that a compound of formula (IV) is produced by the catalytic hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III).

5. (Original) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and HX represents a strong acid, characterized in that a compound of formula (IV) is produced by catalytic hydrogenation of a compound of formula (V).

6. (Original) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and HX represents a strong acid, characterized in that 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde

reacts with a compound of formula (II) in the presence of a strong acid HX to form a compound of the formula (III).

7.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), characterized in that R^1 represents hydrogen; R^2 represents a methoxy; R^3 represents a methoxy; R^4 represents hydrogen; R^5 represents a phenyl or a 3-fluorophenyl; n is 0; HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid; and Y represents a chlorine, a bromine, or an iodine.

12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), characterized in that R^1 represents hydrogen; R^2 represents a methoxy; R^3 represents a methoxy; R^4 represents hydrogen; R^5 represents a phenyl or a 3-fluorophenyl; n is 0; HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid; and Y represents a chlorine, a bromine, or an iodine.

13. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), characterized in that R^1 represents hydrogen; R^2 represents a methoxy; R^3 represents a methoxy; R^4 represents hydrogen; R^5 represents a phenyl or a 3-fluorophenyl; n is 0; HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid; and Y represents a chlorine, a bromine, or an iodine.

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 6 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), characterized in that R^1 represents hydrogen; R^2 represents a methoxy; R^3 represents a methoxy; R^4 represents hydrogen; R^5 represents a phenyl or a 3-fluorophenyl; n is 0; HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene

sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid; and Y represents a chlorine, a bromine, or an iodine.

15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I) wherein within said compound of formula (III) R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, R^4 represents hydrogen, and HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid, characterized in that said compound of formula (IV) is produced from a compound of formula (III) by catalytic hydrogenation, wherein the catalyst is platinum, palladium, nickel, ruthenium, or salts or oxides thereof.

16. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 4 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I) wherein within said compound of formula (III) R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, R^4 represents hydrogen, and HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid, characterized in that said compound of formula (IV) is produced from a compound of formula (III) by catalytic hydrogenation, wherein the catalyst is platinum, palladium, nickel, ruthenium, or salts or oxides thereof.

17. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 5 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I) wherein within said compound of formula (III) R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, R^4 represents hydrogen, and HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid, characterized in that said compound of formula (IV) is produced from a compound of formula (III) by catalytic hydrogenation, wherein the catalyst is platinum, palladium, nickel, ruthenium, or salts or oxides thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein within said compound of formula (V) R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, R^4 represents

hydrogen, and HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid, characterized in that said compound of formula (IV) is produced from a compound of formula (V) by catalytic hydrogenation, wherein the catalyst is platinum, palladium, nickel, ruthenium, or salts or oxides thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 4 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein within said compound of formula (V) R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, R^4 represents hydrogen, and HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid, characterized in that said compound of formula (IV) is produced from a compound of formula (V) by catalytic hydrogenation, wherein the catalyst is platinum, palladium, nickel, ruthenium, or salts or oxides thereof.

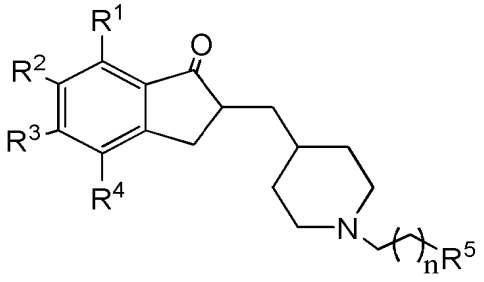
20. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 5 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), wherein within said compound of formula (V) R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, R^4 represents hydrogen, and HX represents methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid, characterized in that said compound of formula (IV) is produced from a compound of formula (V) by catalytic hydrogenation, wherein the catalyst is platinum, palladium, nickel, ruthenium, or salts or oxides thereof.

21. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), characterized in that reacting 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde with a compound of formula (II) in the presence of methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid yields a compound of formula (III), wherein R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, and R^4 represents hydrogen.

22. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 6 for the preparation of a compound of the general formula (I), characterized in that reacting 4-

pyridinecarboxaldehyde with a compound of formula (II) in the presence of methyl sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, or p-toluenesulfonic acid yields a compound of formula (III), wherein R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents methoxy, R^3 represents methoxy, and R^4 represents hydrogen.

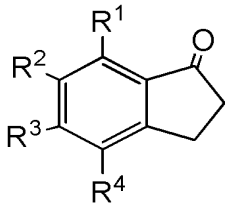
23. (New) A process for producing a Donepezil derivative of formula (I),



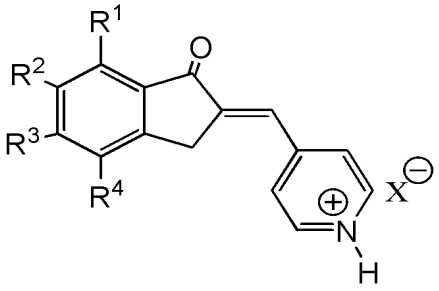
(I)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^5 represents a phenyl or a substituted phenyl; and n is 0, comprising:

a) a reaction of 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde with a compound of formula (II) in refluxing toluene, in the presence of a strong acid HX, to form a compound of formula (III);

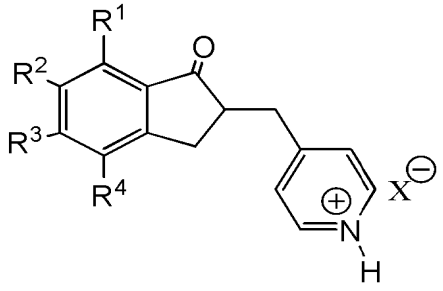


(II)

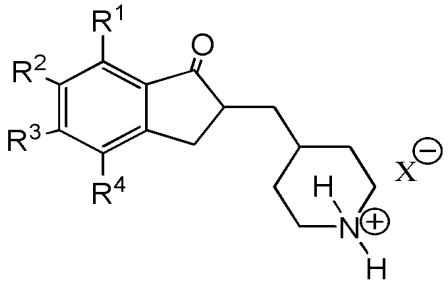


(III)

b) a catalytic hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) or the compound of formula (V) in methanol with H_2 in the presence of Pd/C to yield a compound of formula (IV); and



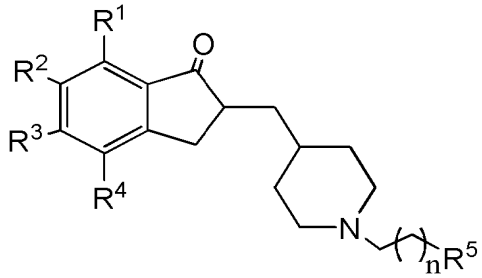
(V)



(IV)

c) a reaction of a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula $OHC-(CH_2)_nR^5$, wherein R^5 represents a phenyl or a substituted phenyl, and n is 0, and with H_2, in the presence of a base and Pd/C, at a temperature of from about 0°C to about 150°C, to yield a compound of formula (I).

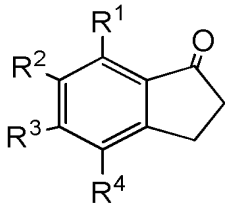
24. (New) A process for producing a Donepezil derivative of formula (I),



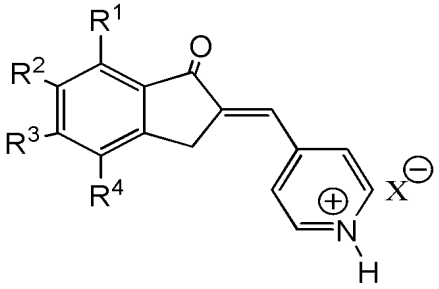
(I)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 each independently represents H, F, an alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^5 represents a phenyl or a substituted phenyl; and n is 0, comprising:

a) a reaction of 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde with a compound of formula (II) in refluxing toluene, in the presence of at least a stoichiometric amount of p-toluenesulfonic acid with respect to the compound of formula (II), to form a compound of formula (III);

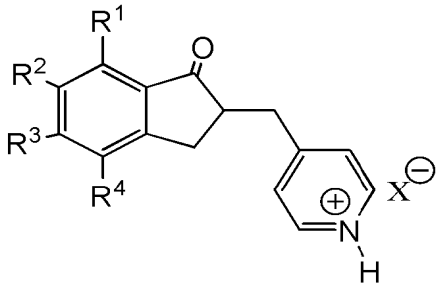


(II)

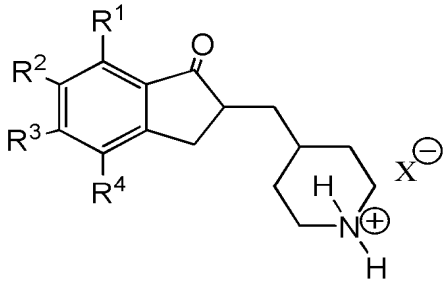


(III)

b) a catalytic hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) or the compound of formula (V) in methanol with H_2 in the presence of Pd/C and a base to yield a compound of formula (IV); and



(V)



(IV)

c) a reaction of a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula $OHC\text{-}(CH_2)_nR^5$, wherein R^5 represents a phenyl or a substituted phenyl, and n is 0, and with H_2, in methanol, in the presence of Pd/C and a base, at a temperature of from about 0°C to about 150°C, to yield a compound of formula (I);

wherein b) and c) are carried out in situ without purification of the compound of formula (IV).